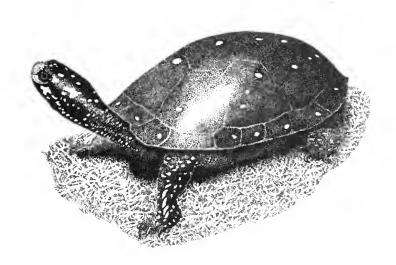
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# TRAIL & LANDSCAPE



A Publication Concerned With Natural History and Conservation

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

#### TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

Editor

**Production Assistant** 

Karen McLachlan

Hamilton

Mailing Team Sarah Anderson

Paul Hamilton Karen McLachlan

Associate Editor
Luke Périard
Ari Hymes-

Vandermeulen

Mailing Team
Coordinator
Sarah Anderson

Hamilton Henry Steger

Publications Mail Registration # 09798

#### The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 — President Fenja Brodo

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse the information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada, and TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a quarterly providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on Club activities.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

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Box 35069, Westgate P.O. Ottawa, Ontario K1Z 1A2

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#### TRAIL & LANDSCAPE

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#### Welcome New Members

#### Ottawa Area

John Biczok/Beth Jennings Wondy Burpee & Family Lise Conway & Family Anthony Cote & Family Sandra Dashney Gerda de Vries & Family Dc Vries-Masemann & Family Catherine Dickson Nanis Farghal Linda Hill & Family Suzanne M. Hof Marcia Hooper Veronika Huta & Family Nancy Jennings

Martha Julien & Family Kaygeedee Minerals Asa Kestrup Frances Kolonko & Family Joan Travers Peter Lariviere & Family Ted Lawrence & Family Cathy Lees Bing Lei & Family T. Middlebro Gerald Mulligan Danica Navaretnam Casey Peet-Pare Carolyn Ragan LA Robertson & Family

Angela Schafer Carol Seal Marcia Talbot Rebecca Vaughan Robert Warc & Family Richard Webster Darla Williscroft Joe Wilson Laurie Wilson Dianna Wolfe/ Rob Willson Michael Wolfson Michael Wood & Family

#### Gatineau Area

Bill Bourne Marie-Hélène Paquet-Boulet Magdala Dabady

#### Ontario

Nam Chul Byun Shauna Edgar D'Arcy Hutton Jav Netherwood Jacob Porter Zuo Sicong Screna Young

#### Alberta Ian Macdonald

Henry Steger Chair, Membership Committee May 2015

#### Follow-up to the 2015 Member Survey

#### Linda Burr

Thank you to all of our members who participated in the survey on communications this past January. The electronic version was distributed by email to 658 members and a paper survey was distributed by mail to 115 members. We received an incredible 395 responses (39 on paper, 356 on-line), which is a response rate of 51%! Considering that a 10% return rate is considered good for these types of surveys, it shows that OFNC members are really passionate about this organization, and the results should provide an accurate snapshot of our club's membership.

The survey is part of a larger plan to improve the ways in which we use our various communication tools (e.g., website, Facebook, etc.) to better serve OFNC members and attract new members. We want to ensure that the OFNC is still thriving in the future and that it continues to meet its members' expectations, including ensuring that members can easily find out about all Club activities in which they may want to participate.

The vast majority of our members (76%) are 55 years or older (46% are 65 and over). While it's easy to make assumptions about members' communication methods based on their age, we learned from the survey that 85% want to receive emails, 44% want to receive paper mail and 22% want updates via Facebook. What does this mean in terms of the ways we will communicate with members in the future?

To better understand how the OFNC is currently communicating with members, our consultant has now spoken with all the individuals in the club who are involved with communications. We have realized that the OFNC and its committees are using about 30 different communication channels with members, including *Trail and Landscape* (*T&L*), emails from various groups within the club, Facebook, websites, etc. Why so many? If our goal is to ensure that the ways we are communicating are those that will best serve the club members, could the OFNC benefit from a more coordinated approach to communications?

Ultimately, we want to ensure that we make the best use of all the communication tools at our disposal. Currently, the final analyses from the survey are being tabulated, and the broader implications for the club are being considered. A final report with recommendations will be submitted to the OFNC Board by the consultant in June 2015.

## The 2015 OFNC Awards Night and Social

Luke Périard



It was that time again. It was time for the OFNC's awards presentation for Club members who stood out as dedicated volunteers, naturalists, land conservationists and natural history educators. The OFNC awards night is an important event because it gives the Club an opportunity to recognize and thank its dedicated members and also raise awareness about other conservationists and naturalists that embody the same objectives. Club members were invited to come to the old St. Basil's church on Rex Avenue and given a chance to mingle, enjoy fine appetizers and learn about naturalist programs occurring in the region.

After I speared a few cheese cubes and olives, and poured myself a small glass of punch, I went to a booth which provided information about the Ottawa River

Keepers. This organization brings interest groups together to deal with issues in the Ottawa River. Some of the activities they are involved in are: shoreline elean-ups, informing the public of factors affecting river health, monitoring river health and reporting it to the media and public. If you're interested in joining their cause, or getting more information, you can check out their website at <a href="https://www.ottawariverkeeper.ca">www.ottawariverkeeper.ca</a>.



Throughout the mingling hour, I bumped into many members who I'd known since I joined back in 2007. I chatted with Fenja Brodo, our current OFNC president for the last four years. She runs workshops, insect outings and organizes the Point Pelec trips. She reminded me that the club runs on volunteers and it needs new ones all the time. I also had a chance to converse with Annie Bélair, the club's Recording Secretary, who has been a member since 2004. It was her 11<sup>th</sup> year being in charge of the awards night's photo and art display. She mentioned that more pictures and paintings need to be submitted, since only a handful were sent in this year. There was also enough time for me to speak to Frank Pope, a member since 1960, who started as the Conservation Committee secretary, then joined the Board of Directors. He was even President for six years and a chair on many of OFNC's committees.

Another booth that I visited informed members about the Ontario SwiftWatch program. This organization keeps track of the Chimney Swift, a bird that likes to nest in chimneys, hollow trees or caves because they are unable to perch when they land. The bird is currently in decline, possibly due to the decrease in houses being built with traditional brick chimneys.

Just before it was time to sit down for the next part of the event, I met a younger club member, Gabriel, who was presenting his project on birds of New Zealand, which has been his lifelong passion.



At 8:15p.m. the host of the evening, Rob Alvo, announced that it was time to begin the formal part of the evening.

Presentations were made to Macoun Field Club members for their outstanding projects entitled: *The Intelligence of Birds* by Morgan, and the *Birds of New Zealand* by Gabriel, Gabrielle and Helena. The Macoun Field Club is the OFNC's young naturalists who go on field trips every two weeks and then talk about their observations. They go to places like the Pakenham Hills, hike deep into forests, observe beaver dams and study individual trees. Parents' ehildren, grandparents' grandchildren and our neighbours with kids are all encouraged to join the Macoun

Field Club. The opportunities to learn are endless and one gets a healthy dose of fresh air and witness things one doesn't get a chance to see in the city.



Next on the agenda were the OFNC awards for 2014 which were presented by Fenja Brodo. The OFNC has been honouring club members with awards since 1981, starting with the Member of the Year, George McGee Service, Conservation and Anne Hanes Natural History awards. In 1992, the Conservation Award for non-members was added and in 2004 the Mary Stuart Education Award. These awards identify outstanding achievements made by club members who volunteer their time and energy to the Club in areas of natural history research and nature conservation.

The first award was Honorary Member, presented to Ross Layberry. This award goes to a person who has made outstanding contributions to Canadian natural history or to the successful operation of the Club. Ross has been collecting butterflies since childhood and that passion hasn't stopped. Ross' contribution to the study of Canadian butterflies has spanned decades. His contributions are many: he coauthored a book on Canadian butterflies entitled "The Butterflies of Canada," published articles in Trail & Landscape (such as the status and distribution of butterflies in Ottawa), he is the editor and compiler for the Toronto Entomologists' Association's online Ontario Butterfly Atlas and, in 2001, he was awarded the Norman Criddle Award by the Entomological Society of Canada for his



"outstanding contribution as a non-professional entomologist to the furtherance of entomology in Canada." Ross Layberry has also contributed a significant amount of time in maintaining a database containing thousands of records of butterflies which is accessible online to researchers and the public at <a href="https://www.cbif.gc.ca/eng/species-bank/butterflies-of-canada">www.cbif.gc.ca/eng/species-bank/butterflies-of-canada</a>. His enthusiasm for butterflies and his being available and open to questions from those wanting to learn more about butterflies also makes him is a very deserving winner of the Honorary Member award for 2015.

The George McGee Service Award went to Elizabeth Morton. This award is given in recognition of a person who has contributed to the smooth running of the Club over several years. She has been a member of OFNC since 1985 and began to actively take part by volunteering to help with the Canadian Field-Naturalist (CFN). She assisted the editor of the CFN until 1989 and then was Editor of Trail & Landscape in 1990. It was in 2002 when she became Copy Editor of CFN. As the copy editor of this scientific journal, she was responsible for proof-reading and editing manuscripts containing a diverse number of subjects and topics written by those with different areas of expertise. A keen eye, attention to detail and a solid knowledge of natural history was what was required and this certainly describes Elizabeth. Elizabeth finishes what she starts and took her retirement only after the CFN's transition from print-only to a print-and-electronic version was complete.



Columbia, joined the Education and Publicity Committee in the Fall of 2013 after her arrival to Ottawa. Her contributions to the club include: promoting Club activities using social media, capturing the Club's highlights, summarizing monthly meetings, writing profiles of OFNC members, hosting and publishing her findings on web blogs and re-activating the Club's Twitter account. Natalie isn't the type to refuse a challenge and taught herself the MS Publisher layout software enabling her to ereate digital files for attractive posters that are used to advertise club activities such as OFNC publications, the Macoun Club, the Fletcher Wildlife Garden, etc., She's also very supportive of the OFNC's youth group and partook in activities such as

She served on the OFNC's Publications Committee for 28 years and participated in its *adhoc* sub-committee to assess the feasibility of the *CFN* becoming an e-journal. The *CFN* wouldn't be what it is today without the dedication and persistence of Elizabeth Morton.

The Member of the Year award goes to a member that has contributed the most to the Club in the previous year and this went to none other than Natalie Sopinka. In the words of Fenja Brodo: "she exemplifies the impulse of sharing uature with others." Natalie, a PhD candidate from the University of British



guiding children in a nest building project to build human scale birds' nests in Andrew Hayden Park on Bird Day. Certainly, someone as active in the club as is Natalie, deserves to be recognized as the OFNC's member of the year. She was unable to attend, but sent a response which was read to the group by Lynn Ovenden.

The Mary Stuart Education Award was presented to Tom Spears and is given in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of natural history education in the Ottawa Region. Tom Spears is a science writer for the Ottawa Citizen and writes articles ranging in topies from NASA research planes flying in snowstorms to looking into the possibilities of why we aren't being contacted by any deep space aliens. He was a reporter for the Peterborough



Examiner, Ottawa Journal, Montreal Gazette and Toronto Star before he joined the Ottawa Citizen 25 years ago. Tom Spears ensures that subjects in his articles are backed-up with published scientific reports and data. He interviews researchers and scientists who are experts in the field that he is investigating in order to get the background he needs to write his article. But his articles aren't just limited to science topics. True to his style of reporting, he is a strong promoter of using fact-based decision-making when it comes to natural environment management. Tom's science-based articles are known to be geared to teaching a scientifically complex, but interesting, topic to the public. Because of his ability to explain and teach science to the layperson, he was awarded this year's Mary Stuart Education Award.

The next awards were the two Conservation awards, one presented to a member, and one to a non-member, in recognition of their outstanding contribution in the cause of natural history conservation in the Ottawa Valley/District. The member award went to Anouk Hocdeman particularly because of her FLAP program. FLAP stands for Fatal Light Awareness Program and was founded in 1993 in Toronto. It was formed to look at the issue of flying birds colliding with tall buildings or structures and often sustaining serious injuries or fatality. The number of birds killed in North America due to structure collisions are in the hundreds of millions to one billion per year.



A FLAP chapter in Ottawa was initiated thanks to Anouk, who starting asking questions about what was being done in Ottawa to reduce or eliminate the number of bird collisions that she was noticing happening around the City Hall buildings. She found out that nothing was being done. Starting up a FLAP chapter in Ottawa wasn't just a matter of getting trained on how to identify birds killed in building collisions, but also involved a lot of details and bureaueracy to work out beforehand. Important business relationships had to be formed such as those FLAP now has with the Wild Bird Care Centre, Nature Canada and downtown property managers. With the help of her group of dedicated volunteers, she saves lives by taking stunned or injured birds to the Wild Bird Care Centre, or sheltering them until they are capable of flying again. Anouk's work doesn't stop there however; she also knows the

importance of public exposure by contacting the media and doing interviews. Before taking on the Ottawa FLAP program, she was involved with the Falcon Watch program which employs volunteers to keep an eye on a pair of Peregrine falcons at a site in downtown Ottawa and another near Heron Road in Ottawa. She records and updates the public on the pairs' nesting progress on the website <a href="https://www.falconwatch.ca">www.falconwatch.ca</a>. On the site, one can see pictures of the falcons and read her short journal recordings of the regular events of the watch. For the dedication she has to the conservation of birds and her outreach to the public to education, she was commended with the OFNC's Conservation Award.



The Conservation awarded to a non-member was presented to Paul and Cathy Keddy for their contribution to the conservation of Lanark County. In 2014, they donated a portion of their 250-hectare property to the Mississippi Madawaska Land Trust and entered into a formal 999-year agreement to protect the remainder in perpetuity. Paul and Cathy, professional ecologists, discovered this important wildlife habitat 40 years ago. When they found it, they knew that they had to protect this beautiful wetland landscape containing 120 year-old oaks and populations of wild orchids, and so they made a commitment to the slow accumulation of the property despite having to compete with logging companies and land developers that wanted the land for profit. Twice, they even purchased pieces of the property after it had been logged, knowing that in the long-term, these trees would re-grow and the wildlife habitat would return. Thanks to their determination and selfless efforts, they have ensured

the permanent protection of that landscape. Through their work as professional biologists, they have clarified, explored and documented important natural landscapes and features. The inspiration they have brought to other conservationists, biologists and field naturalists makes them an undisputable choice for the OFNC's Conservation Award for a non-member.

The President's Prize is awarded at the president's discretion for singular contributions to the OFNC that do not quite fit the club's other award categories. The first prize was awarded to Lis Allison. Lis took on a project to honour the memory of Bill Cody. Bill Cody was a fern specialist, a long-time and Honorary member of the OFNC, and a remarkable biologist. A tribute to Bill can be found in the Canadian Field Naturalist (Catling, M., et al, 124:70-96). Because



of Lis' well-established knowledge of ferns, she was the perfect choice to handle the project. The area designated for the fern trail and the Backyard Garden had to be relandscaped, to make an area suitable for ferns. A small wetland and a stone wall were installed to accommodate 39 species of ferns. Lis herself provided many of these ferns from her own garden. All members and non-members are invited to come out and see the model Fletcher Wildlife Garden and Lis Allison's Fern Garden.

The second President's Prize went to Robert Cermack. Robert requested support from the OFNC to host the 2014 Ontario Federation of Ornithologists (OFO) convention in Ottawa and the club was only too pleased to do so. OFNC members and birders from other clubs in the region cooperatively organized an event that included 29 field trips led by 38 leaders over the 3-day convention in September 2014, all done by volunteers. On one of those field trips, bird watchers recorded observing 150 species of birds! There was so much to choose from at the convention that participants had hard choices to make as to which events they



wanted to do. The OFNC president stated that at the OFO Convention dinner, she heard "enthusiasm and delight expressed by attendees, asserting this to be one of the best OFO Conventions ever." The elub was well represented and made a real impression at the OFO and this is why Robert was presented with the President's Prize for 2014.

At the evening's wrap-up, the night's volunteers were thanked. These included Annie Bélair, Connie Clark, Dave Seaborn, Diane Lepage, Henri Zubriek, Elizabeth Moore, Jacob Mueller, Jeff Skevington, Julia Cipriani, Rob Alvo, Hume Douglas, Karen MeLachlan Hamilton, Ken Young, Louis L'Arrivée, Martin Messier, Renée Devries, Luke Périard and Fenja Brodo. It is volunteers like them that keep the elub running and make it offer such interesting and educational activities to our members.

Thanks to Diane Lepage and Terry Zurbrigg for providing the photos for this article.























# Grasshopper outing contributes to Constance Bay Biothon

P.M. Catling and B. Kostink



Figure 1. Part of the grasshopper study group with the habitat of regionally rare Boll's Grasshopper in the foreground, 27 Sept. 2014. Photo by B. Kostiuk.

On Saturday 27 September 2014, twenty OFNC members gathered to participate in an OFNC outing organized to help gather information for the Constance Bay Biothon (Fig. 1). The area of interest here is centered on the Torbolton Sandhills (Constance Bay Sandhills). This Biothon is an ambitious new initiative launched by the OFNC Conservation Committee. It is like a bioblitz but instead of lasting for a day or a weekend, it is an inventory of flora and fauna that lasts for a year. Activities and excursions are planned around the event to provide education, especially for children, and to raise awareness of adults. The Constance Bay Biothon is expected to be the first of a number of biothons planned for natural areas around Ottawa.

The outing began at 10:00 a.m. with warm (22-24°C) sunny weather which lasted all day. Julia Cipriani, Chair of the OFNC Events Committee, welcomed the participants. Nets were distributed to the children and some adults. In this case collecting did not have a negative impact because, at the late date of the outing, adult grasshoppers had already mated and laid eggs and were soon to die. The group proceeded southeast of the recreation centre toward the clearing, collecting and talking along the way. The history of the area was described, followed by a brief discussion of the known grasshopper fauna and the books and guides that are useful in understanding it.

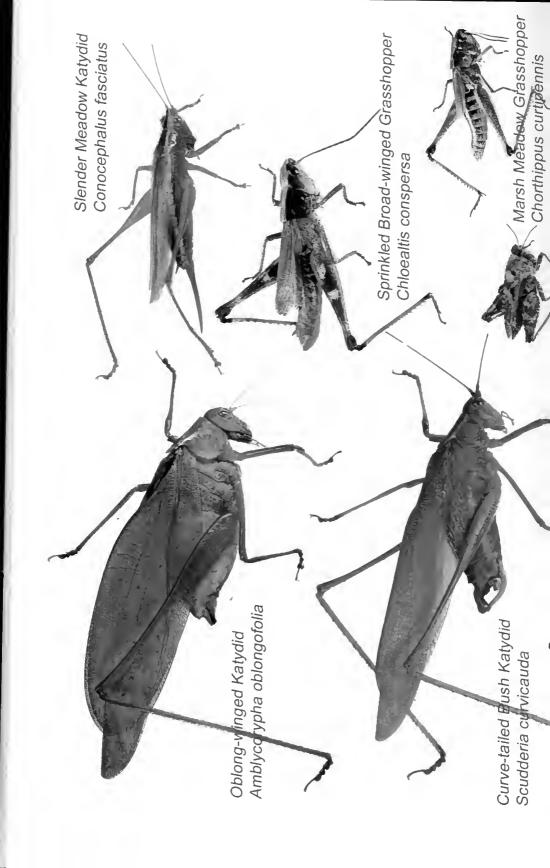
It was noted that the high sandy deposits that form the peninsula of Constance Bay are unusual in the immediate area and were formed by deposition in and around the postglacial Champlain Sea about 10,000 years ago. In pre-settlement times the area was mostly covered by scrub (low shrubs and grass) with scattered oaks, Jack Pines and White Pines, as well as areas of open sand (Catling, Spicer and Brunton 2010). There were also areas of more or less open, pine-oak forest. This was an unusual habitat in the lower Ottawa Valley, where beech-maple-hemlock-pine forests prevailed on the drier sites.

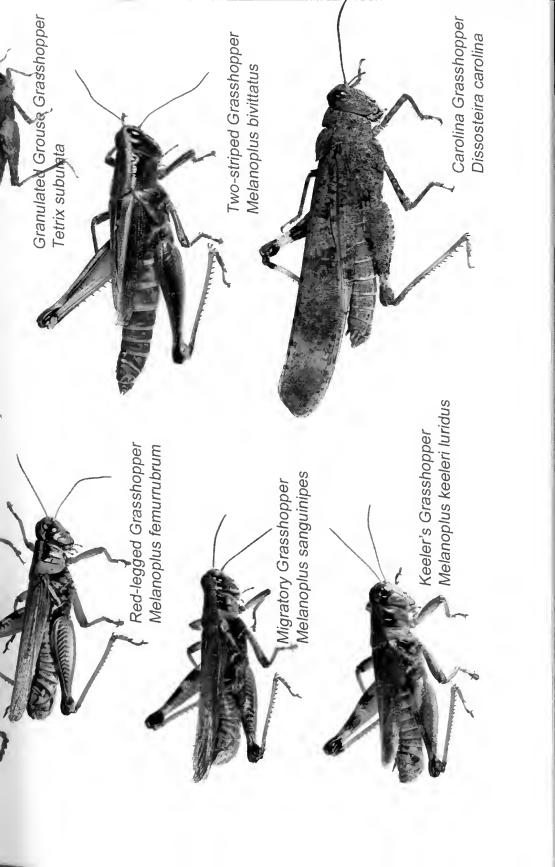
Open habitats including sand, scrub and open woods, were not common in castern Ontario, and most have now been destroyed. The open habitat of the Sandhills was extensively planted with pine and spruce in the 1950s, and it declined to a fraction of a percentage of its former extent soon after as the tree plantings developed into a dense evergreen forest (Fig. 2). This would not have happened without planting young trees because the seedlings would not have survived in the harsh and competitive environment. Although there were other sandy, open habitats in the Ottawa Valley, few have the remarkably high diversity and occurrence of rare species that is characteristic of Constance Bay (Catling and Brunton 2010). There has been an attempt to restore biodiversity on some open sandy sites in the Ottawa Valley (see work on the Pinhey Dune, Catling and Kostiuk 2013), and an impressive restoration also exists in the Torbolton Sandhills on the Constance Bay peninsula (Catling and Kostiuk 2010).

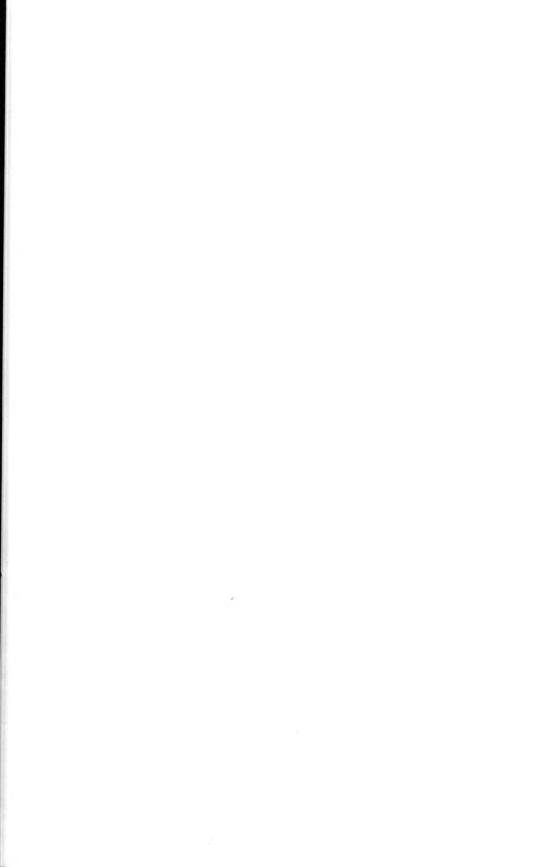
#### About Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers and their relatives are largely a tropical group with 35,000 species worldwide. There are approximately 370 grasshoppers and related insects in Canada. In castern Canada (Ontario eastwards) there are approximately 160 and in the eastern part of southern Ontario, there are approximately 93. In the Constance Bay area, 32 have been recorded (Table 1). Two that require open, sandy habitats may be extirpated and a few others may yet be discovered. The list is based on observations of the authors and specimens in the Canadian National Collection of









Insects (CNCI) as well as those seen on the outing. All of the literature aimed at grasshopper identification is somewhat technical. We used Vickery and Kevan (1985), with help from a few other sources (Bland 2003, Capinera et al. 2004, Otte 1981, Vickery 1991). Some crickets and katydids can be identified by their songs and a useful online source is Walker (2014) which includes references and identification aids as well as songs. Another important online source is the "Orthoptera Species File Online" (Eades et al. 2015) which provides generally accepted common and scientific names as well as images and distributional information.



Figure 2. The loss of natural habitat and low diversity of vascular plants is evident in this photo of part of the plantation, 27 Sept. 2014. Photo by B. Kostiuk.

#### Outing Results

The children present made a great contribution in collecting specimens with cotton sweep nets or mesh nets. Captured specimens were placed in jars and passed around so that everyone could have a good look. A very young Northern Red-bellied Snake (Storeria occipitomaculata) was also examined by the group. Local resident Hank Jones explained the conservation efforts currently underway to secure the biodiversity of Torbolton Sandhills (see https://www.facebook.com/friendsoftorboltonsandhills).

#### Mottled Sand Grasshopper Spharagemon collare (Scudder)

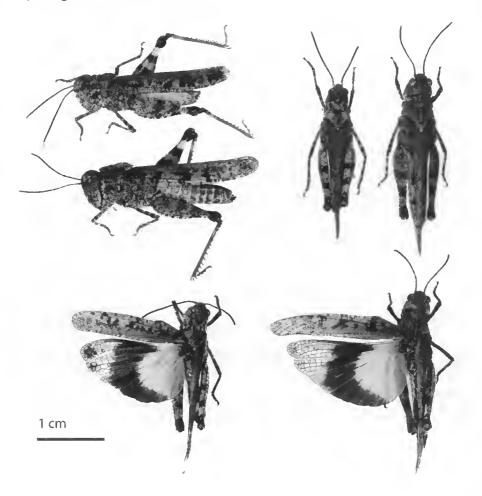


Figure 3. Mottled Sand Grasshoppers Spharagemon collare (Scudder) from isolated open sand patches at Constance Bay, 20 Sept. 2014. Photo by P.M. Catling.

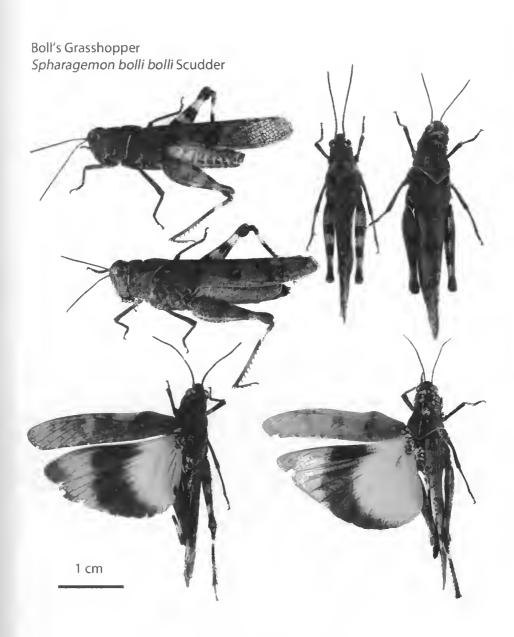


Figure 4. Boll's Grasshoppers. Spharagemon bolli bolli Scudder, from isolated open area at Constance Bay, 20 Sept. 2014. Photo by P.M. Catling.

The highlights of the grasshopper survey were two band-winged grasshoppers; Mottled Sand Grasshopper (Fig. 3) and the Boll's Grasshopper (Fig. 4), both of which are rare in the region and occupy very small areas of open habitat in the Constance Bay area (see details in the annotated list). The children found a number of Grizzly Grasshoppers which feed on pine needles, unlike other local grasshoppers which feed on grasses or forbs. By 2:00 p.m. when the group returned to the parking area, 14 species had been recorded. The leaders with Bill Carson and Jacob Mueller carried on along a trail to the northwest and added two more species to the list which had not been recorded in the area, at least not recently. These were the Sprinkled Broad-winged Grasshopper and the Granulated Grouse Grasshopper. The total number for the day was 16 (marked with an asterisk in Table 1).

The work gathered useful information on the species present and indicated an impressive grasshopper fauna. It also suggested that part of the Constance Bay grasshopper fauna may be in a precarious position due to isolation of restricted and declining habitats. However, the fauna may be recovered by more restoration efforts (Fig. 5). Since grasshoppers are a useful indicator group, this also applies to other fauna and flora (see text box).



Figure 5. A very restricted area of open sand occupied by a small population of Mottled Sand Grasshoppers, 27 Sept. 2014. Photo by B. Kostiuk.

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Re-introduction of threatened butterfly in Torbolton Sandhills?

Two species of closely-related shrubs, New Jersey Tea (Ceanothus americanus) and Redroot (Ceanothus herbaceous), were found to be widespread from Bishop Davis Road northwest almost 2 km into the more mesic Red Oak and Big Tooth Aspen near the tip of the peninsula. These shrubs are the larval food of the threatened Mottled Duskywing butterfly (Erynnis martialis). The shrubs thrive in open sun but deteriorate in shade and many are now shaded since the natural process of fire no longer occurs. Opening and removing shading where these shrubs occur, as well as increasing the clearing to 10 times its present extent may provide enough healthy larval food plants to re-introduce the threatened butterfly.

**Table 1.** Annotated list of the grasshoppers and related insects of the Constance Bay area. The list follows the order of Vickery and Kevan (1985). Scientific names preceded by an asterisk indicate species that were seen on the outing.

#### Forficulidae, Earwig

Forficula auricularia, EUROPEAN EARWIG (introduced)

Uncommon but widespread, this introduced species is mostly seen in gardens.

#### Diapheromeridae, Stick Insect

Diapheromera femorata, COMMON WALKINGSTICK

Rarely seen on Red Oak along paths. Occurrences in the Torbolton Sandhills and at Fitzroy Harbour represent the northern limit in Ontario and a range extension in Vickery and Kevan (1985, map 6).

#### Mantidae, Mantid

Mantis religiosa religiosa, EUROPEAN MANTID (introduced)

This introduced mantid is uncommon in the area along open roadsides.

#### Blatellidac, Wood Cockroach

Blatella germanica, GERMAN COCKROACH (introduced)

Introduced and uncommon in buildings.

Parcoblatta pennsylvanica, PENNSYLVANIA WOOD COCKROACH

Locally abundant in a 10-year-old pile of discarded roof shingles on the edge of the clearing. Here 30 juveniles 5-30 mm long were seen on 10 Oct. 2014.

#### Raphidophoridae, Camel Cricket

Ceuthophilus sp., CAMEL CRICKET

Rarely encountered but widespread in the leaf litter and rodent tunnels in oak-Large-tooth Aspen woods.

#### Tettigoniidae, Katydid

\*Scudderia curvicauda, Curve-tailed Bush Katydid

Uncommon. Open scrubby areas. These large green Katydids are narrow; the following differs in being broad and more leaf-like.

Amblycorypha oblongifolia, Oblong-Winged Katydid

Rare in open scrub.

Conocephalus fasciatus, Slender Meadow Katydid

Rare. Only seen in isolated areas of marsh on Ottawa River.

#### Gryllidae, True Crieket

\*Allonemobius allardi, ALLARDS' GROUND CRICKET

Common in open areas and in the leaf litter of oak woods.

\*Gryllus pennsylvanicus, FALL FIELD CRICKET

Common and widespread. Open areas.

Gryllus veletis, Spring Field Cricket

Locally common throughout.

#### Tetrigidae, Pygmy Grasshopper, Grouse Locust

\*Nomotettix cristatus, CRESTED GROUSE LOCUST

Uncommon along dry paths through blueberry.

\*Tetrix subulata, Granulated Grouse Grasshopper

Lower areas in oak woods.

#### Aerididae, Short-horned Grasshopper

\*Melanoplus bivittatus, Two-striped Grasshopper

Uncommon in moist rank grasses and also dry, open shrubby heath with Pennsylvania Sedge. The two light stripes on either side of the top of the body are distinctive.

Melanoplus fasciatus, Huckleberry Grasshopper

Uncommon. Often associated with Lowbush Blueberry.

\*Melanoplus femurrubrum, RED-LEGGED GRASSHOPPER

Common in mesic grass areas and often associated with Smooth Brome. Hind femur not banded.

\*Melanoplus keeleri luridus, KEELER'S GRASSHOPPER

Uncommon in dry open areas with Poverty Oat Grass and Pennsylvania Sedge.

\*Melanoplus punctulatus punctulatus, GRIZZLY GRASSHOPPER

Common and widespread. This species is evidently high up in Pine trees (mostly Red Pines but also White Pines) feeding on needles until late in the season (late September and early October) when they were seen on paths and on tree trunks.

\*Melanoplus sanguinipes, MIGRATORY GRASSHOPPER

Common in drier grassy areas. Hind femur banded.

Arphia pseudonietana, RED-WINGED GRASSHOPPER

Old records, probably extirpated.

Arphia sulphurea, Spring Yellow-Winged Grasshopper

Old records, possibly extirpated.

\*Dissosteira carolina, CAROLINA GRASSHOPPER

Common and widespread along roads and on open sand and upper beaches throughout.

\*Spharagemon bolli bolli, Boll's Grasshopper

Rare and confined to small isolated open areas but much less associated with sand than the following. A population estimated at 20 individuals of this species occupies an area of open ground around a campfire in the restored clearing. The bare soil with which the grasshoppers are associated is only around the campfire and is maintained by young people enjoying the fire. It is no more than 25 m² and can be seen in the foreground of the group photo (Fig. 1). All around is a denser cover of Pennsylvania Sedge and shrubs where these grasshoppers are absent. This was noticed on several occasions and confirmed once again during the outing when five were found in the foreground of the photo. This is a fine example of successful management of a natural environment by teenagers.

\*Spharagemon collare, MOTTLED SAND GRASSHOPPER

Rare and confined to extremely small remnants of open sand that exist on the north side of Bishop Davis Rd., Whistler Rd., and on the north side of the football field (Fig. 5) at the recreation centre. The areas are extremely small (less than 30 m²) and isolated remnants of the open sand that once existed in the area. Such occurrences provide an indication of how small a habitat can be while still containing a population of a relatively large insect. Four individuals were seen at the football field site during the OFNC outing.

Pardalophora apiculata, CORAL-WINGED GRASSHOPPER

Old records, probably extirpated at Constance Bay, but a colony still exists in open grassy habitat on a sand deposit in Burnt Lands Provincial Provincial Park. This large species with mostly red hindwings apparently has a two year life cycle with an individual passing the first winter as an egg and the second winter as a half grown nymph. Adults appear in May.

\*Chortophaga viridifasciata, Northern Greenstriped Grasshopper

Uncommon. Only one nymph, 1/3-1/2 grown was found on the outing. A half-grown nymph is the overwintering stage for this species of open habitats which appears as an adult in May.

Camnula pellucida, CLEARWINGED GRASSHOPPER

Uncommon. Dry, open areas.

*Orphulella speciosa*, SLANT-FACED PASTURE GRASSHOPPER Uncommon. Dry, open areas.

Chloealtis abdominalis, COW GRASSHOPPER

Uncommon and mostly found in grassy areas.

\*Chloealtis conspersa, Sprinkled Broad-Winged Grasshopper

Uncommon. The black sides of the pronotum and base of the abdomen are distinctive features of this species which is rare along dry, brushy paths.

\*Chorthippus curtipennis, MARSH MEADOW GRASSHOPPER

Common in dry grassy areas.

Centrefold: Some grasshoppers and katydids recently found in the Torbolton Sandhills. With the exceptions of the Amblycorypha oblongifolia, all photos are of specimens from Constance Bay in 2014. Photo by P.M.C.

#### Red Squirrel

Rosemary Anderson

Leaping like a bird from tree to tree
Racing through the high dense eedar hedge
Passage marked by shaking branches,
a flash or two of red.
Zipping up the grey tree trunk
Lapping the maple sap, from bitten bark.
A change from winter seed.

Like a warrior he defends his patch from other birds and beasts who fear his fury.

Beautifully formed and furred, red-brown coat snow white belly shining in the sun brightening dark winter days.

# W.T Macoun and Native Plant Gardening: Everything Old is New Again!

#### Christine Hanrahan

The use of native plants for gardens, parks and in habitat restoration is nothing new. In 1910, William Tyrrell Macoun, Curator of the Arboretum at the Central Experimental Farm, extolled the benefits of native plants. In those early days of nationhood, when a sense of pride in things Canadian was beginning to emerge, he believed that using native plants in gardens and public places would be a very unique way to reflect these feelings. He called for city streets and parks to be planted with native trees and suggested that amongst the best were the Hard Maple (Sugar maple) and the American Elm. "Let us stick to our Hard Maple, Acer saccharum, the best maple by all odds. It grows to a great height and size and its brilliant colouring in autumn gives Canadian cities an individuality . . . As the Hard Maple is the best maple to plant, so is our American Elm, Ulmus americana, the best elm." It was, he said, "one of the most desirable trees for street planting." For parks, he comments that "there are so many good native trees that one would have to name almost all of them."

Turning to gardens, Macoun praised the beauty of native flora, suggesting that gardeners use Butterfly Weed, Trillium, Wild Phlox, Virginia Cowslip, Cardinal Flower and others instead of horticultural varieties. He laments the spread of so many introduced species, noting that "practically all our bad weeds are European plants." He also notes that "most of our best wild flowers are woodland species and when the woods disappear they disappear with them. To retain and make use of the many beautiful woodland species, we must preserve the woods or make for them in our parks and gardens conditions approaching those they get in their native wilds." Understanding the symbiotic relationship between the plants and the soil, the conditions under which they grow, is fundamental and something that we often forget today when trying to grow native plants.

For hedges Macoun was especially fond of the viburnums, particularly *Viburnum opulus*, High-bush Cranberry, and Eastern White Cedar, which he called American

Arbor Vitae. He also favoured the American Beech for hedges, noting "the native beech is doing well as a hedge plant at Ottawa and there is no good reason why it should not become as popular in this country as the European Beech is in England." We'd be hard pressed to find many beech hedges today, and I suspect his idea was largely ignored, apart from the beech hedge in the hedge collection on the Central Experimental Farm.

Reading Macoun's article, it is apparent that our current trend towards native plant gardening is nothing new. Little has changed in the more than 100 years since Macoun set out his ideas for using indigenous flora in our parks and gardens. We continue to import exotic plants that often turn out to be serious invasive pests, with devastating impact on native flora and ecology. It is sobering to think how different things might have been today had Macoun's contemporaries heeded his call to "grow native"!

#### Reference:

Macoun, W.T. 1910. Some of the Best Native Plants for Cultivation. *The Ottawa Naturalist* 22(10):173-179.

# An episode of Black and White Birds

Frederick W. Schueler

11 January 2009—Canada: Ontario: Grenville County: Oxford-on-Rideau: Bishops Mills: 4 & 6 St Lawrence St. (Schuelers). (100m and homesite). 44.87156°N 75.70095°W TIME: 1150-1154. AIR TEMP: -9, sunny, Beaufort light air. HABITAT: rural village, shallow soil limestone plain. OBSERVER: Frederick W. Schueler. FW S09 Janl 11150/a, Corvus corax (Raven) (Bird). 1 adult, seen, heard, song, shepherding a white raptor away from the village. At 11h50, as 1 was going over to the houses to do the chores 1 heard low guttural Raven croaks from west of the Village, among the calls of Corvus brachyrhynchos (Crow), Cyanocitta cristata (Blue Jay), and Parus atricapillus (Blackcap Chickadee). 1 don't record a Raven here, however, unless 1've both heard and seen it, so I sprinted around behind the barns, in the hopes of a clear view. As anyone who's run to see an overhead Bird knows, this is usually a fool's errand, but when I got out behind the goat yard (11h53), the Raven was calling again, and I saw it in slow circling flight, fairly high up, probably over the creek above the bridge.

Oh, to be a bright-sky Raven, Darker than the night can be, Oh, to speak to snowy landscapes In tones supervisory.

Grawk-guk-garruluc, grak-guk-garruluc, goak, goak, go-ak, growk goak gogee, Gaaaaruk, guk, graaaruk, guk gaaaaruk, guk garruluk, Gluck, gluck, garruck, gluuk gluk, goeeee.

(ravenesque verse for grandson Samuel, spring 2013)

When I looked up, after writing these details down (11h54), the Raven was there again, closer by, again giving short guttural croaks, and going higher in company with another Bird, that in the first second I took for a Gull. But then I saw that it was a hawk, but one that was shining white ventrally, going higher in slow circles, with the Raven always above the hawk, neither Bird flapping much after the first few seconds, and then they slid off together to the west, towards the creek, and were out of sight.

If one consults the "Hawks Overhead" page of the field guide, there are no hawks figured that are completely white beneath, so I assume this was either "something totally unexpected" or an extreme light-phase Roughleg with a reduced black belly band (in the few internet images of light-phase Roughlegs overhead, the belly band isn't as conspicuous as one might expect). It had long narrow wings, a greater wing span than the Raven (ca 125-130% of the Raven's span), black primary tips, and perhaps small black wrist marks, and perhaps a narrow black tail band.

Steve Wendt suggested that it might have been a male Northern Harrier, and that's clearly the alternative, but it was flying like a Buteo, and 1 don't think I've ever seen a Harrier fly that way, if any are still around at this season.

### Fabulous Fall Fungi workshop

#### Richard Aaron

Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, this popular 3-day workshop explores the impressive diversity of mushrooms and other fungi found in Southern Ontario. Suitable for all levels from beginner to advanced. Activities include daily field trips to collect specimens, working in the classroom to identify our finds, and discussions on fungal ecology, natural history, and uses. There will also be one or more evening presentations, plus the opportunity to see a bioluminescent mushroom in action. If we find any edibles our cook is always amenable to cooking up samples. Participants will have access to a set of field guides, 10x loupes, and an extensive collection of reference books.

Cost includes three nights accommodation, all meals, instruction, printed materials, and use of classroom. Small class size (max 12 students). Register early to avoid disappointment as each year there are waiting lists.

Location: Queen's University Biological Station.

Details: www.queensu.ca/qubs.

Due to increased demand, there are three sessions to choose from this year:

- Tues, Sept 8 (8 p.m.) to Fri, Sept 11 (4 p.m.)
- Tues, Sept 29 (8 p.m.) to Fri, Oct 2 (4 p.m.)
- Tues, Oct 6 (8 p.m.) to Fri, Oct 9 (4 p.m.)



## **Coming Events**

Arranged by the OFNC Events Committee
For further information, please check our website

www.ofnc.ca

PLEASE NOTE: The OFNC website (ofnc.ca) contains the most up-to-date information on events. Please check it regularly for changes or additions to events. The Club's Facebook site <a href="http://www.facebook.com/groups/379992938552/">http://www.facebook.com/groups/379992938552/</a> and Twitter account <a href="mailto:@OttawaFieldNat">@OttawaFieldNat</a> will also be used to announce last minute changes to events. Note that we anticipate having several weather and year-dependent events that are not included in Trail & Landscape and will only be announced at the last minute via our website, Facebook and Twitter. These include seasonal events such as Snowy Owl viewing, the spring Snow Goose spectacle, Eardley Eagles and Mudpuppy Night.

ALL OUTINGS: Field trips to natural areas in our region and beyond take place all year round. These events are for OFNC members and prospective members. Prospective members are welcome unless the notice indicates that participation is limited, or that bus travel is involved. Guests should be aware that, in all cases, OFNC liability insurance applies to OFNC members only. Times stated for events are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, please contact the leader.

Please bring a lunch on full-day trips and dress according to the weather forecast and activity. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes are essential on all birding trips. Unless otherwise stated, transportation will be by car pool.

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Beginning in February 2014, our monthly meetings will be held at the Central Experimental Farm in the K.W. Neatby Building, Salon B, at 960 Carling Avenue. There is ample free parking in the lot on the West side of Maple Drive by Carling Ave., immediately to the east of the main entrance to the Neatby Building.

**EVENTS ORIENTED TO ALL AGES:** Kids are welcome on all of our trips. We have highlighted particular hikes as "oriented to all ages" as these are most likely to be enjoyed by typical children. Depending on your child(ren)'s interests and stamina, please feel free to bring them along on any events. For events tailored to kids, check out the Macoun Field Club (http://www.ofnc.ca/macoun/index.php).

Sunday 12 July 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### GEOLOGICAL TOUR TO ALMONTE

Leader: Allan Donaldson, Ottawa-Gatincau Geoheritage Project Meet: At 9 a.m. southeast end of public parking area adjacent to the loop for OC buses within Kanata Centrum Shopping Centre. Parking slots should be free adjacent to the outcrops of Nepean Sandstone below the north side of Highway 417.

This is a chance to learn about the great variety of geological features within the National Capital arca. This trip will comprise three morning stops, a lunch stop in Almonte, and an open-ended afternoon tour of Metcalfe Gcoheritage Park in Almonte to view and discuss a variety of large rock specimens representative of the geology of our region. Two of the three morning stops are on private property: one site displays relationships within a variety of igneous and metamorphic rocks typical of the Canadian Shield; the other one offers an extensive exposure of post-Precambrian stratified limestone replete with a impressive fossils and glacially sculpted features). All sites are for viewing and learning, so bring cameras instead of hammers. Pack a lunch, water, wear reasonable walking shoes. This trip will be cancelled in the event of sustained rain.

Sunday 2 August

# DAMSELFLIES AND DRAGONFLIES AT PETRIE ISLAND

9 a.m. to 12 noon **Leader**: Gillian Mastromatteo (sedge DOT sprite AT gmail DOT com)

Meet: At the Petrie Island parking lot near the entrance to the William Holland Trail. Note that parking costs \$2. This outing is limited to 10 participants only. Contact Gillian via email to register and to arrange carpooling prior to the outing. Petrie Island is a great spot to find interesting odonates not typically found at places like Mud Lake or Stony Swamp. With luck we will see Slaty Skimmers, Blue Dashers, Swamp Spreadwings, and some of the more colourful bluets local to Petrie Island. Bring a snack and water, and if you have them, a field guide, insect net and magnifying lens. This outing will be cancelled in the event of rain.

Thursday 13 August 8 a.m. to early afternoon

### SAND DUNE INSECT WALK - LIMERICK FOREST

Leader: Henri Goulet

Meet: 8:00 a.m. at Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, northeast corner of the parking lot near Pizza Pizza, Richmond Road at Assaly Road OR 9:00 a.m. at the Y parking lot on Forsythe Road in Limerick Forest. Contact Stew Hamill at 613-269-3415 or shamill@ripnet.com for more information.

Limerick Forest is a 5782-hectare community forest located in eastern Ontario, owned and managed by the United Counties of Leeds and Grenville, Conifer plantations account for approximately one third of the total area of Limerick Forest. This is a result of the reforestation of abandoned farmland and sand dunes by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) via the Agreement Forest Program started in the early 1940s. The remainder of Limerick is comprised of wetlands and second growth mixed forest, in roughly equal proportions of one-third each. The Friends of Limerick Forest invite you to join Henri Goulet and Pete Dang of the Biodiversity Conservancy for a hike to look for insects on a sand dune in Limerick Forest. This hike will be followed by lunch and a visit to the Interpretive Centre. After lunch we can view the historic bird egg collection, containing 743 sets of eggs, some still in their original nests. Wear hiking gear, and bring lunch, water, field guides, and binoculars. This is part of a year-long series of events celebrating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Limerick Forest in 2015. Visit the website limerickforest.ca for a complete list of activities.

Saturday 15 August 8:15 a.m. TREE WALK IN GATINEAU PARK: AN INTRODUCTION TO TREES AND TREE ECOLOGY OF THE OTTAWA

AREA

Leader: Justin Peter (jbpetr (AT) yahoo.ca)

11:30 a.m.

to

Meet: 8:15 a.m. at Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, at the northeast corner of the parking lot, near Pizza Pizza OR 9 a.m. at the Gatineau Park Visitor Centre parking lot on Scott Road, off Old Chelsea Road, Gatineau Park.

The Ottawa area has over 50 native tree species, each of which has adaptations that allow it to exploit certain conditions successfully. We will walk the Sugarbush Trail, identifying various trees along the way while looking at how their presence as species and their individual forms can inform us about local environmental conditions, both present and historic.

Besides the abundant Sugar Maple and other common species, we expect to see some locally sporadic to uncommon trees, including Butternut, Rock Elm, Slippery Elm and Bitternut Hickory. We will draw heavily on tree lore and on our own field observations. This excursion should appeal to those who are interested in how various trees fit into our local forested environments as well as those who would like a better grasp of tree identification. If time, energy and interest allows, we may "branch out" and explore surrounding areas. A drink and a snack for the return to the car are recommended. Sturdy footwear for walking is recommended as well. Binoculars may be helpful. This excursion will be cancelled in the event of stormy weather or heavy, sustained winds/rain.

**Difficulty**: the Sugarbush Trail is universally accessible and is rated as easy by the NCC. We may also use a short side trail that is considered moderate in difficulty.

Saturday 22 August THE EDGE OF THE SHIELD - EXPLORING WEST OF ALMONTE

7:30 a.m.

Leader: Ken Allison, (613) 256-4283

to 12 noon Meet: 7:30 a.m. at Lincoln Fields Shopping Centre, at the northeast corner of the parking lot, near Pizza Pizza OR 8:15 a.m. at the home of Ken and Ruth Allison, just west of Almonte at 561 Wolf Grove Rd. Off-street parking at the Allison property is somewhat limited, so carpooling is encouraged. Step outside of your usual patch and explore the edge of the

Step outside of your usual patch and explore the edge of the Canadian Shield in Lanark County. This will be a general interest walk, including botany and birds, but also anything else that we come across. This will be a half-day outing, with a fair bit of walking on good trails with some hills. We will see beaver ponds and typical Lanark County forests at various successional stages. If water levels are suitable we will probably finish up at the Almonte lagoons to check for shorebirds and waterfowl. Children who can walk a few kilometres are encouraged to come. Wear good walking footwear, bring water, a snack, binoculars and spotting scope. This walk may be cancelled in the event of continuous rain. If in doubt, check with Ken.

Saturday 29 August 1 p.m.

4 p.m.

COME SEE WHAT OUR INQUISITIVE KIDS HAVE DISCOVERED IN STONY SWAMP

\*Especially Kid Friendly\*

Leaders: Macoun Club members and Rob Lee Meet: Parking lot P6 on Old Richmond Road.

Come learn about what most users of Stony Swamp don't see with the Macoun Field Club. The children and youth of the Macoun Club have been conducting in-depth studies in Stony Swamp for decades (see www.magma.ca/~rel/mfc/msa.html). Possible areas of focus are mound-building subterranean ants opening their nests to release queens and drones, the dramatic effects of invasive earthworms on the forest floor, and geological features (sedimentary and glacial) on several acres of bare sandstone. Bring water, a snack, a hat, long pants, closed shoes, binoculars, sun and bug repellent.

Tuesday 8 September

7 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

BABINA: BEING A BIRD IN NORTH AMERICA. NORTH

OF MEXICO

social Speaker: Robert Alvo (www.babina.ca).

Location: Salon B, K.W. Neatby Building, Central Experimental

Farm, 960 Carling Avenue.

7:30 p.m. presentation

Rob's presentation will be based on his forthcoming book which treats each of the 700 species that breed in North America, as defined by the American Birding Association, in three volumes. One page per species, focussing on interesting aspects of each species in a "best of each species" approach. Each species page has a cartoon (18 artists have contributed), a global range map, NatureServe conservation status ranks, global and national for the USA, and Canada, at least one photo, and the written account. Spanish bird names for use in Mexico will be presented using the list recently adopted by the government of Mexico. Taxonomy, nomenclature, and species ordering follow the American Ornithologists' Union. An appendix treats the other 300 species that occur, but do not breed regularly, in North America.

Thursday 10 September

BEGINNER BIRDING AT SHIRLEY'S BAY—DEVELOP YOUR ID SKILLS

8 a.m.

Leaders: Rick Collins and Heather Pickard

to

Meet: PI parking lot at Shirley's Bay Boat Launch located at the north end of Rifle Rd.

12 noon

This event is a guided birding hike for those new to birding who want to learn bird identification skills. Your leaders will discuss the four keys to bird identification used by Cornell: size and shape colour pattern habitat and behaviour. We will practice applying this ID system to the birds we find. We will begin at the boat launch shoreline with a search of the Ottawa River for waterfowl, raptors, waders and gulls. Following this we will hike the nearby trails in search of the birds that inhabit the various local habitats. At this time of year we expect to encounter a wide variety of species and many opportunities to work at improving our ID skills. Bring binoculars, dress in layers, wear sturdy footwear and long pants. You might want a snack and water. There is an outhouse at the boat launch area. Depending on the weather you might need rain gear, sun screen or bug repellant. This event will run rain or shine, but may be cut short if the weather conditions are extreme.

Saturday 3 October MUSHROOMS OF MACSKIMMING

9:30 a.m.

Leader: Dr. Myron Smith

3 p.m.

Meet: Pioneer Village (Trails End) Field Centre's Inn. 3685 Wilhaven Drive, Ottawa. Prepare for 3 minute walk to the Village. MacSkimming Outdoor Education Centre, on the way to Montreal via Hwy. 17 in Cumberland, is having its annual "Open Trails" open house event. It is the only day when the site is open for the public to explore these Ottawa-Carleton District School Board lands. OFNC members and the public are invited. We will begin with a 30-min presentation on mushrooms, split into groups to collect samples in the field, then regroup to identify them. If you have them, useful items to bring include: mushroom field guide, hand lens, field knife, small basket (like fruit basket), pencil and paper, brown paper sandwich bags. Bring a lunch, your curiosity and dress appropriately for the weather. This activity will occur rain or shine. The Centre is a diverse site, including a marsh by the Ottawa River, agricultural fields in series of successional stages, red maple swamps and mature mixed-forest. You are also welcome to explore the Centre. For more information, visit the MacSkimming website.

Tuesday
Tuesday 13 October 7 p.m.
7 p.m.

OFNC MONTHLY MEETING

BUTTERFLY HUNTING IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

REGION

social

Speaker: Rick Cavasin

Location: Salon B, K.W. Neatby Building, Central Experimental

Farm, 960 Carling Avenue.

7:30 p.m. nresentation

Blessed with a wide diversity of habitats, the Ottawa-Gatineau area boasts a corresponding wide diversity of butterfly species. However, when searching for some of our rarities, the 'where' and the 'when' can be critical. This talk will discuss butterfly hot spots in Eastern Ontario and South-Western Quebec, what's special about them, their noteworthy species, and when to visit them. Rick will also cover how to use resources like the Ontario Butterfly Atlas, the butterfly observation email list, and eButterfly. He will also touch on his use of photographic equipment.



DEADLINE: Material intended for the October - December issue must be in the editor's hands by 1, August, 2015. Mail your manuscripts to:

Karen McLachlan Hamilton 2980 Moodie Drive, Nepean, ON, K2J 4S7 H: (613) 838-4943; email: hamiltou@storm.ea

### ANY ARTICLES FOR TRAIL & LANDSCAPE?

Have you been on an interesting field trip or made some unusual observations? Write up your thoughts and send them to *Trail & Landscape*.

URL of our site: www.ofnc.ca

WEBMASTER's email webmaster@ofnc.ca



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